

DAN AND FERN STOLTZ FAMILY
GIVEN IN 1983 by Fren Leah (Matthieson) Stoltz
for the 1984 Curlew, Palo Alta County Centennial Book

Fern Leah Matthiesen, oldest daughter of Emile O. and Leah Gross Matthiesen, was born on a farm at Curlew, Iowa, December 28, 1913. I attended school at Curlew, both elementary and high school.

I remember in the earlier years of school of being sent home with several other students to change clothes because we had visited a skunk in a haystack on the Griffin property just west of the schoolhouse----WHEW!!! I don't remember my first year of school at all, I believe the teacher was Miss Brown.

We had a basketball team and really had a good time regardless of how many games we won or lost. Our coach was Mr. E. B. Fritz and chaperone was Miss Berniece Hansen. I was lucky and got to play all four years.

We had a happy life growing up, there were seven of us kids. Perhaps Dad and Mom would say differently, times were not very good.

I was brought up in the Baptist faith for which I have always been thankful. I did my best as pianist of the church for a few years.

I graduated from Curlew High School May 16, 1931. After that I did home nursing and housework for different families throught the neighborhood.

On February 16, 1935, I was married to Daniel Allen Stoltz, son of George W. and Christene Johnson Stoltz who lived neighbors just across the fence and north of us. We lived on the "Stoltz" home farm from 1935 to 1944, then moved to a farm near Clylinder,Iowa. In the fall of 1948 we bought a farm north and east of Austin, Minn., and moved here in January of 1949. This has been our home since.

We have 10 children, seven sons and three daughters, all living. They are all married and quite scattered.

They are: Marjorie lives in Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; Darrel at Brownsdale , Minn.; Richard at Rosemont, Minn.; Kenneth in Fort Lyons, Colo.; Beverly in Austin, Minn.; Sandra in Lakewood, Colo.; Daniel E. in Apple Valley, Minn.; Marvin in Morrison, Colo.; Lawrence in San Diego, Calif., and Wendell in Owatonna, Minn.

Five of the boys served in the military in Vietnam and Korea.

We have 32 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Dan has been in a nursing home since 1980.